

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2791

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state plan for hepatitis C prevention, testing, and treatment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 94.001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(a) The department shall develop a state plan for prevention of, testing for, and treatment of hepatitis C. The plan must include strategies for prevention of, testing for, and treatment of hepatitis C in specific demographic groups that are disproportionately affected by hepatitis C, including:

(1) persons infected with HIV;

(2) [7] veterans;

(3) [7] racial or ethnic minorities that suffer a higher incidence of hepatitis C;

(4) [7, and] persons who engage in high risk behavior, such as intravenous drug use; and

(5) persons born between 1945 and 1965.

(b-1) In developing the state plan, the department shall:

(1) determine methods for increasing access to testing and treatment for underinsured or uninsured patients;

(2) consider methods for promoting health care providers to offer hepatitis C testing and treatment, including in

1 rural areas and areas designated as medically underserved areas
2 under state or federal law; and

3 (3) report on the use of telemedicine medical services
4 and telehealth services in providing hepatitis C treatment to rural
5 and medically underserved areas.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.